

2002 – 2003 NEW APPLICANT FACT SHEET FOR CALIFORNIA

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program (Program) is a federally funded program designed to promote student excellence and achievement. These scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic merit to recognize students who show promise of continued academic excellence. The Program is administered by the California Student Aid Commission (Commission). Selected scholars must enroll in and attend a United States (U.S.) institution of higher education full time beginning in the fall term of the 2002-2003 academic year. Scholars will receive up to a \$1,500 scholarship award. Continued funding is supported entirely by federal funds. As a result, the Program is subject to modification, which may result in a reduction in, or complete loss of funds, regardless of the rules or benefits at the time the award is made. Depending on the availability of federal funding, the scholarships may be renewed up to four years for enrollment in an accredited U.S. postsecondary institution.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

To meet eligibility requirements, federal law requires that an applicant must:

- Be a legal resident of California. (See the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application form, item # 10)
 - Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen. (See the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application form, item # 9)
- Note: If the applicant is an eligible non-citizen, documentation from the U.S. Naturalization and Immigration Service must accompany the application.**
- Graduate from a public- or private-secondary school between 7-1-2001 and 6-30-2002 or receive the equivalent of a certificate of graduation as recognized by the California State Department of Education between 7-1-2001 and 4-1-2002.
 - Enroll in and attend a U.S. postsecondary public or private institution on a full-time basis during the fall term of the 2002-2003 academic year.
 - Be considered a freshman beginning in the fall term of the 2002-2003 academic year.
 - Have registered with the Selective Service System, unless the postsecondary institution certifies that the applicant is not required to register with Selective Service.
 - Submit a Certification Form ED 80-0016, attesting to the fact that they are not delinquent or in default on a federal scholarship or educational loan with the application.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible high school students currently enrolled in a California high school must apply through their designated high school Program coordinator.

NOTE: Applicants currently enrolled in high school must adhere to the application deadlines set by their high school campus for the Program since all nomination packages must be submitted by the designated high school coordinator.

Eligible students who meet the above requirements **and who are not currently** attending a California high school should obtain and submit a completed application package directly to the Commission, Attn: Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029.

NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

Process: Each California public or private secondary education institution may nominate up to two (2) applicants. All high schools wishing to nominate students for this Scholarship must submit completed application materials for each nominee. A complete application package must include:

- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Nomination Form for California (G-194)
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application (G-192)
- Certification Form ED 80-0016

Deadline: All completed application materials must be postmarked by **April 30, 2002** and sent to the Commission at P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029.

NOTE: Applications that are received late, are incomplete, or are for students who are ineligible may not be considered in the ranking process.

SCHOLAR SELECTION AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission will review all nominations and rank eligible applicants by grade point average (using Scholastic Aptitude Test and/or American College Test scores as tie breakers). The Commission will announce selected scholars for the Program in June 2002, provided federal funds are allocated. Both the nominating institution and the individual students will receive notification.

Selected scholars will receive their award (prorated by enrollment status and academic term) through their postsecondary institution's financial aid office. Receipt of this scholarship may affect other financial aid offers.

For additional information, please contact the Commission's Specialized Programs Unit at (888) 224-7268 #3.